

New law creates within the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (the commission) an automated victim notification system (the system).

New law requires the system, through the commission, to have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To establish an automated victim notification system on offenders that automatically provides crime victims or their families with notice as provided in present law.
- (2) To develop and implement a system whereby families may initiate inquiries to receive the latest status report on the offender charged or convicted in the crime against that person or his family member.
- (3) To provide the information accessible to victims and their families through the system to be the same information that is required in the statute on basic rights for victims and witnesses (R.S. 46:1844) to be available to victims and their families.
- (4) To promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act as are necessary to effectuate these provisions.
- (5) To develop and implement a notification form for victims and their families to utilize the system.
- (6) To provide information about the system.
- (7) To make, solicit, and request proposals and offers, and to execute and effectuate agreements or contracts for the operation of any part of the system.
- (8) To do all other things necessary or convenient to carry out the functions, powers, and duties set forth in this Section.

New law provides that the commission, or any unit of a local governing authority, or the state shall not be liable as to the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of the information contained in the system.

New law provides that the effect of this Act shall be contingent upon receipt of adequate funding specifically covering the costs of the system and subject to approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

New law requires all law enforcement agencies, correctional agencies and institutions, district attorneys and municipal prosecutors, courts having criminal jurisdiction, or any other public agency dealing with crimes or criminals, when requested by the commission, to:

- (1) Install and maintain records needed for the system to accurately report to victims and their families information as required by the commission.
- (2) Report to the commission the information requested as and when the commission so requires.
- (3) Upon the request of the commission, provide any other such assistance, information, and data which are reasonable and available as will enable the commission to properly carry out its powers and duties.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Adds R.S. 15:1229 and 1229.1)